

A

## REVIEW

OF THE

Affairs of *FRANCE*:

With Observations on TRANSACTIONS at Home.

Tuesday, October 30. 1795.

**I**N my Solemn Addressing these Papers, to the Commons of *England*, Assembled in Parliament, as the most proper and only Persons, to whom Appeals of Grievances ought to be made; I have taken the the Liberty to lay before them, two of the grossest, and the most considerable of the many Plots and Conspiracies, of a Hot and Immoderate Party of Men in this Nation, against the General Peace; and to Destroy that Harmony, and good Understanding which began at the Throne, and was by Her Majesty's Glorious Example and Exhortations, spreading it self over the whole Kingdom; if I have Err'd in any part of it, it has been, that I have not given the full Description of the Extent, and black Aggravations of these things; as they really deserve, and as in the Event of them will appear.

As these things respect Civil Government and Liberty, so am I now, a most Humble

Petitioner to the Honourable House of Commons, for their forbearance, while I presume to lay before them a Plot, of as much deeper Design, as it is of a far larger Extent; and as the Events expected, are of a much more Fatal Consequence to the whole Nation.

May God Almighty put it into the Hearts of the Nations Representatives now to be Assembled, to enquire into the Particulars, of a Monstrous and Hellish Conspiracy against, not the *Dissenters* only, but the Church of *England*, and the whole *Protestant Religion*, in the Gross; aiming at an entire Subversion of the Reformation, and reducing us to that Original Darkeness and Idolatry, from whence this Nation, with so much Light, Reason, and at so much Expences, Rescued themselves above 150 Years ago.

And that this may be more plain, Please your Honourable Assembly to enquire after

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several Scandalous Libels, the Genuine Offspring of the same Party, and expressing their avow'd Principles; by which it will plainly appear, that Hell, Rome, and France in Conjunction with some Trayterous Members of the Church of England, if such may be Call'd Members of the Church of England, who refuse to own the Present Settlement, or to Swear Allegiance to her Civil and Ecclesiastical Head; or who having taken the Oaths, act against her Interest; have struck hands together, to destroy the Church of England, and entirely subvert the Protestant Religion in this Nation.

And this Treason is Manifested in such a manner, grown up to such a height, and their Prospect of Success so great, that they have not stuck to give in Printed Schemes, shewing the Easiness and Possibility, of uniting the Church of England, to the Church of Rome: Or, in English, the Easiness of Reconciling the English Protestant Church, to French Popery. How any Man, whose Eyes are open to the Interest of his Native Country, or has any Zeal for the Protestants Religion, can refrain Humbly Representing these Insolent Attempts against both, to your Consideration, I know not; nor can it consist with the Duty of him, who pretends to advance all-kinds of needful Truth, to omit humbly to lay before you this Fatal Design as it stands couch'd, not in the Publick Discourses, and Debates of these Gentlemen only; not in their Prodigious Memorial only, wherein they Industiously infuse it into the Minds of the People; how much rather they would be Papists than Dissenters; how much more Orthodox Popery is, than an Anti-Episcoparian Principle; and so by degrees, not only Enlarge the Breach, between Dissenters and the Church, but endeavour to lessen and make familiar the Errors of Popery to the People.

But I conceive it the Duty of this Paper, Humbly to lay it before you, that in several Printed Books yet publish'd, and which have lately receiv'd no Censure; it is openly and Barefac'dly attempted to be prov'd,

1. That it is easie to reconcile, the Church of England, to the Church of France

2. That it is impossible to reconcile

the Church of England; with Protestant Dissenters.

That the first of these, strikes directly at the Root of the Reformation, at the Overthrow of the Church; and at the immediate Defamation of the National Establish'd Worship, is left to the Judgment of your Honourable House to determine; as well as to find out such Ways and Methods to prevent, as to your great Wisdom shall seem meet.

That the Second, is in it self a gross Absurdity and Contradiction, is also referr'd to your Honourable and Just Determination; and likewise to all the World to Judge, whether it can be impossible to reconcile those Protestants, who agree in all Doctrinal Articles, and Subscribe the same Confession of Faith; three Articles and a Clause of indifferent things only excepted; and yet be very easie to Reconcile, the Church of England to that of France, from whom she differs, almost in all the Essential Points of Faith and Doctrine; by whom she is Doom'd Heretical, and Excluded Salvation; and from whom her Reformation has Cost such Expence of Treasure, Blood of Martyr and Confessors, and Labour of near two Century of Years?

To lay before your Honours the depth of this Design, branch'd out into all its Terrible Consequences, as I hope it will be needful to your Discerning Judgments, so neither can it be Compriz'd, within the narrow Bounds of this Address; but I cannot but Humbly Address your Honourable Assembly, to take into your grave Consideration, the following Particulars, out of a great many that may be deduc'd from the same Premises.

1. That to Represent the Differences, between the Church of England, and the Church of Rome to be small, and easie to be accommodated, is a Horrid Plot against the Foundation of the Church of England, as built upon Schism, Phanaticism and Error, having broken off from Catholic Unity, or Unjustifiable Trifles, which may easily be Accommodated; 'tis putting a Star upon the Reformation, and throwing Dirt in the Faces of the Blessed Martyrs, the Fathers of the Reformation, and Founders of the English Church.

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2. 'Tis a fixing the Charge of Schism upon the *English Church*, and not only Unchurching her, by blowing up the Foundation on which she is built; but lessening that Necessity, on which the first Reformers were moved to attempt the Reformation, and by which alone it can be justified.

3. To say the Church of *England*, may be easily reconciled to the *Gallican Church of Rome*, but that the *Dissenters* can never be reconciled, is a most inveterate Slander on the Church, making Odious and Undesir'd Comparisons, and an Implicite Affirming, That the *Dissenters* are farther off from Popery than the Church of *England*.

4. To say, That the Church of *England* may with small Allowances be reconcil'd to the *Gallican Church of Rome*, is to fix that Scandal on the Church, which we have reproach'd some too warm *Dissenters* formerly for; in saying, viz. That the Church of *England* is but a few Removes from Popery.

These and many other ways, this is a Plot against the Reputation and Character of the Church of *England*, and that not in behalf of the *Dissenters* at all, their Distance from the Church of *England* no way moving them to desire it; but in order first of all to weaken, lessen, divide, and afterward to destroy the Protestant Religion, as it is held profess'd, adhered to, and 'tis hoped, jointly profess'd and valued by both.

As such, this black Design is recommended to your Honours just Examination, as an Original of Hell, whose Brokers these Gentlemen stoop to be, and whose Agents they appear in their Endeavours to destroy that Church, which however dispers'd and scattered with too many unhappy Divisions and Dissensions, is yet universally consider'd but one Body of Catholick Christians united in the same Faith and Hope, and yet more united in the same Civil Interest in the Protestant Government of *England*, establish'd by the Supreme Authority of Parliament in the Person of her present Majesty; and after her in the Illustrious House of *Hannover*, as long as they shall continue in the Protestant Profession; and afterward in such Branches, Succession and Families of the Royal Blood, as shall be limited in Parliament; the only *Jus Divinum* of this Nation, by whom it has been declar'd

at the Most August Bar of the House of the Peers; That it is inconsistent with the Constitution of this Protestant Nation to be Govern'd by a Popish Prince.

To suggest then, That the Difference between the Church of *England*, and the *Gallican Church of Rome* is but small; and that the Church of *England* may be easily reconciled, is a horrid Plot upon the Reputation of the Church of *England*; which all Men that have any Regard to the present religious Establishment of this Nation, will, and which your Honourable House always has thought themselves oblig'd to vindicate.

But as this is not all: the Author of this humbly represents it to this Honourable Assembly, as a Treasonable, Malitious and Popish Design, deep as Hell, and horrid in its Extent; pointed with unlimited Malice at the very Being and Life of the Protestant Religion in *Europe*, of which this Nation has always been allowed to be one of the most powerful Bullwarks, and of which her Majesty is the Principal Defender.

The *Dissenters*, however misrepresented to your Honourable Assembly, as Persons from whom these Men would suggest the Church is in Danger, can no more be easy under the Apprehensions of a Contrivance against the whole State of Religion in this Nation, than Men can be supposed at Sea to be easy, when the Vessel they are embark'd in, has taken Fire; only from the weak Satisfaction that that part of the Ship is not on Fire, in which they are: whereas 'tis known and plain, they must all sink together.

The *Dissenters*, may it please your Honourable House, to examine their Principles in the nicest Manner, will be found Protestants equally so, as to their Distance and Aversion to Popery, if not more than their Brethren. Their Interest in the Nation defends them from the scandal of being capable to wish its Distractions and Divisions; and in both it must be allow'd they stand in Conjunction with the rest of the Nation upon the same foot, both of Religious and Civil Interests; are embark'd in the same Vessel, and must sink together, whenever the Calamity these People wish to the Protestant Religion, shall be permitted to befall it: The *Dissenters* have no room to hope for any thing less than a large Interest in the Common Distress, and



at the end to drink deepest of the General Destruction.

They then that strive to insufe it into the Minds of the People; That the *Dissenters* are the Persons who would pull down the Church, must offer it only to conceal the real Design of destroying not the Church of *England* only, but the Protestant Religion in General in these Nations; and to screen from the Publick View and Resentment; those People, who being bent to pull down both, endeavour to possess the Minds of Men with empy Notions and Fears of one another, thereby amusing them with Dangers, where there are none, to divert them from Guarding against those most significant Perils, which the Authers hope to conceal by this Artifice from Publick Inspection.

This humble Representation is therefore made to remind the Honourable House of **Commons** of this real Danger of the Church, which being publickly search'd into by such a Body, would open the Nations Eyes, effectually to see the Shams and Out-cries raised by a Party of imaginary Dangers from Persons who must sink with her, whenever she falls; and therefore cannot rationally be supposed to wish any evil to the Church, unless at the same time they can be supposed to be willing to put their hands to their own Destruction.

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